PRESS RELEASE

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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WEST VIRGINIA 2005 EGG PRODUCTION

WEST VIRGINIA -- **Egg production** during the year ending November 30, 2005 totaled 261 million eggs. This was 4 percent below the 2004 production of 273 million eggs.

Layer numbers during 2005 averaged 1.17 million, down 7 percent from 2004. The average annual production per layer was 224 eggs, 7 eggs more than the 2004 average. Pullets for 2005 totaled 589,000, down 28 percent from 2004. Other chickens totaled 140,000 in 2005, down 20 percent from 2004.

Total number of chickens on hand on December 1, 2005 (excluding commercial broilers) was 1.86 million head, down 18 percent from 2004.

The total value of all chickens on December 1, 2005 was $9.8 million, down 22 percent from the December 1, 2004 value of $12.7 million. The average value of $5.30 per bird on December 1, 2005 was down 30 cents from 2004.

UNITED STATES -- **Egg production** during the year ending November 30, 2005 totaled a record high 90.0 billion eggs, up 1 percent from 2004. Table egg production, at 76.9 billion eggs, was up 1 percent from the previous year. Hatching egg production, at 13.1 billion eggs, was up 2 percent from 2004.

Layer numbers during 2005 averaged 344 million, up slightly from the year earlier. The annual average production per layer on hand in 2005 was 262 eggs, up slightly from the 2004 average of 261.

Total number of chickens on hand on December 1, 2005 (excluding commercial broilers) was 453 million birds, down slightly from last year.

The total value of all chickens on December 1, 2005 was $1.13 billion, up 1 percent from December 1, 2004. The average value increased from $2.48 per bird on December 1, 2004, to $2.50 per bird on December 1, 2005.

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